AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 15-18 and 20 have been cancelled.
Claims 3, 5, 7-14 and 19 have been amended.
Claims 21-41 are new.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. The device of claim 2<u>1</u> wherein the magnets are permanent magnets.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim [[4]] <u>21</u> wherein the magnet associated with the latch member is moveable.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims <u>21</u>~~4 to 6~~ wherein the latch device includes <u>a</u> moving <u>device</u> ~~means~~ for moving the moveable magnet.

8. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 7 wherein there is provided <u>a</u> retention <u>arrangement</u>~~means~~ for temporarily retaining the moveable magnet following movement thereof by the moving <u>device</u>~~means~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim ~~7 or~~ 8 further including a user accessible slider mechanism <u>which</u> is coupled to the moving <u>device</u>~~means~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 9 wherein the slider mechanism includes an engagement element to engage with the latch member and move the latch member against the biasing effect of the biasing device~~means~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein the biasing device ~~means~~ is a spring, which biases the latch member to the non-latching position.

12. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims ~~9 to 11~~ wherein the slider mechanism includes a user accessible actuating element, which is moveable to unlatch the latch, the actuating element being moveable in the direction in which a closure element, such as a window, is moveable toward an open position.

13. (Currently Amended) The device as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 21 ~~to 12~~ wherein the device is of a construction that is attachable to the vertical side of a sliding sash of a window whereby when the sash is moved to its closed position the latch device self actuates under the action of the magnetise ~~means~~, thereby locking the sash into the closed position.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~self latching~~ device as claimed in claim 13 in combination with a hung window sash wherein a said self latching device is attached to or mounted with each vertical side of the hung sash.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The window sash as claimed in claim 2218 wherein one magnetic ~~element~~ is movable to a position where it is repulsed by the other magnetic ~~element~~ and thereby driven into a retainerretaining means.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A self latching device including a latch member moveable between a latching position and a non latching position, the latch member when in the latching position being engaged with a strike, a biasing device to bias the latch member into one of said latching and non-latching positions and magnets for moving the latch member into the other of said latching and non-latching positions, the magnets including a magnet associated with the strike and a magnet associated with the latch member, one of said magnets is fixed in position and the other is moveable, the moveable magnet being moveable in a direction transverse to the direction in which the latch member moves between the latching and non-latching positions.

22. (New) A window sash mounted for vertical sliding movement in a frame the sash including vertical side elements in each of which is located a self latching latch device which has a latch member movable between a latching position and a non-latching position the latch member, when in the latching position, being engaged in a strike located with a portion of the frame which is adjacent the vertical side element of the sash, a biasing device to bias the latch member into one of said latching and non-latching positions, magnets for moving the latch member into engagement with the strike when the sash has moved to a position where latching of the sash is to occur, an operating element which, in use, is moveable by a person moving the sash from a latched position to effect movement of the latch member to its non-latching position, the operating element being movable in a direction which corresponds to the direction in which the sash is to move away from the latched position, the magnets include two magnets one mounted with the strike and the other with the latch member, whereby the latch member is moved into the latching position by attraction between the magnets and

a moving device for causing a shearing action between the magnets to occur whereby the latch member can be moved to the non-latching position.

23. (New) The window sash as claimed in claim 19 wherein the operating element is part of a slider mechanism operable to unlatch the latch device.

24. (New) The window sash as claimed in claim 23 wherein the slider mechanism includes an engagement element to engage with the latch member and move the latch member against the biasing effect of the biasing device.

25. (New) The window sash as claimed in claim 24 wherein the biasing device is a spring, which biases the latch member to a non-latching position.

26. (New) A window sash as claimed in claim 24 wherein one of said magnets is fixed in position and the other is movable, the movable magnet being movable in a direction transverse to the direction in which the latch member moves between the latching and non-latching positions.

27. (New) The window sash of claim 26 wherein the magnets are permanent magnets.

28. (New) The window sash as claimed in claim 27 wherein the magnet associated with the latch member is movable.

29. (New) The window sash as claimed in claim 28 wherein the latch device includes a moving device for moving the movable magnet.

30. (New) The device as claimed in claim 21 wherein the strike includes a plurality of pockets or recesses into a selected one of which the magnet can be located.

31. (New) The device as claimed in claim 30 wherein the strike is located in a carriage which is adjustably mounted in the strike.

32. (New) The device as claimed in claim 30 wherein there is provided disengagable locating arrangement for locating the carriage in an adjusted position.

33. (New) The device as claimed in claim 32 wherein the strike is a moulded one piece body in which the carriage is mounted, the body incorporating clips for clip mounting of the strike in an opening window frame.

34. (New) The device as claimed in claim 7 wherein the moving device includes a rack and toothed gear drive coupling the slider mechanism to a magnet carrier.

35. (New) The device as claimed in claim 34 wherein the toothed gear includes a spigot slidingly engaged with a curved guide of the slider mechanism to translate sliding movement of the slider mechanism into a rotary motion of the toothed gear.

36. (New) The device as claimed in claim 7 wherein the moving device is a disk mounted for rotary movement, the disk having at least one spigot engaged with a profiled guide in the slider mechanism whereby sliding movement of the slider mechanism is translated into rotary movement of the disk.

37. (New) The device as claimed in claim 36 wherein the disk includes a further spigot engaged in a slot in a slidingly mounted magnet pusher.

38. (New) The device as claimed in claim 36 wherein the movable magnet is movably located in a recess into which the pusher locates whereby movement of the slider mechanism is transmitted to the pusher to move the movable magnet in the recess.

39. (New) The device as claimed in claim 37 wherein the retainer is an angled recess communicating with the recess in which movable magnet is moved by the pusher, the angled recess being located at or near the limit of movement of the pusher.

40. (New) The device as claimed in claim 38 wherein the slider mechanism is biased by a slider mechanism biasing device to return to the position from which it has moved to effect unlatching of the device.

41. (New) The device as claimed in claim 32 wherein the slider mechanism biasing device is a spring.